

**PASSING OF STEAM ENGINES.**  
The practical success which has followed the use of the internal combustion engine in large ships seems to spell the beginning of the end of steam vessels. Recently the head of a company owning and operating more than 70 steam vessels announced that his company would never again build a ship with steam as the motive power. The advantages of the internal combustion engine are many. They utilize a great per cent. of the energy of the fuel. They are economical in operation. As one man expressed it, all you have to do is to start the thing and then read a newspaper. The fuel can be conveniently carried, no stokers are required, and instead of the engines becoming overheated in tropical climates, trial seems to show that they work better the hotter the temperature. The present difficulty seems to be to get oil at a reasonable cost. Gasoline has been rising steadily in price for some time. The supply of crude oil is not limitless by any means. There remains, of course, denatured alcohol, which can be made from vegetable matter, and it may in time become the great fuel of the world. However that may be, it is reasonably certain that ship owners during the next decade will turn to the internal combustion engine to solve many of their difficulties.

A great many people, fearful of the ultimate swamping of this country by an influx of foreigners, look only at the statistics showing arrivals of immigrants, and forget that there is a reflux tide. During the fiscal year which ended with the month of June more than a million individuals from foreign ports landed in ports of the United States. Of these, however, 178,983 were classified as non-immigrants, which fact reveals the number of immigrants as 821,017, says the Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin. But against this there was an offset. The alien departures from American ports in the fiscal year numbered 615,292, of whom 222,920 were non-immigrants. To find the extent of the immigrant addition to the population in the year 1911-12 it is necessary to subtract the 222,920 representing immigrants who departed from the 821,017 representing immigrants who arrived. The result shows the gain in population by immigration during the year to have been 401,863, which is not alarming.

The verbiage of one whose principal effort is not to make speeches but to refrain from making them. He feels the obsession upon him, and often fights it, but in vain, says the New York Post. Sooner or later the floods of talk will burst forth in spite of him. A leading French deputy once explained the impulse to our author is a "physical necessity." He had no desire to speak, no real reason for speaking; but the words rose to his lips and he could not keep them back.

Women are not breaking into farming in a way to cause a boom in the price of abandoned farm lands, but they are, according to scattered reports, taking a try at farming, and, according to the same report, they are generally making a success of it. Generally the woman who takes to farming goes in for something faddy—and makes it pay.

One of the inspiring things in life is the popularity of youth. Or perhaps it may better be called the aim of everybody to keep young. Old age has lost out to the modern idea, says Judge. Who nowadays sees old men or old women? Men who half a century ago would have been characterized as "stricken with years" are gay old boys today, and women have so mastered the art of perpetual youth that it takes a wise one to pick out the grandmothers.

A man in Minneapolis complained to the police that his eight-room house had been stolen, leaving no trace of its whereabouts. The next thing burglars will be running off in the silence of the night with skyscrapers.

Now horses are to have individual drinking cups. If the standard of drinking is to be raised among working animals, an effort might be made to do the same with the intelligence and humanity of drivers.

Far away in Milan, Italy, they are in doubt whether poker is a gambling game. Let those doubters play with almost any good American, and they will soon decide the matter, especially if they run up against a straight flush with a measly four aces.

A Denver preacher insists that it is a sin to kill a fly or break an egg. Still, we don't believe killing flies or breaking eggs is as bad as swearing at a golf ball on Sunday.

Now is the time for the yachtsman to get revenge for the gibes he has endured all year by asking his tormentors to take a sail.

It is said pedestrians can avoid automobiles by buying motor boats, but in some localities they would have to buy lakes, and this would be expensive.

Now that a new counterfeit \$20 note is in circulation let the owners of swollen fortunes be on guard!

# JAPANESE HOME LIFE



CLEANING THE ROOM

**T**HE duties and functions of the many departments of life in Japan are clearly defined and the general acquiescence in such definitions in a mark of orderly instinct rather than servility that it is ever ready to recognize its own inferiority. That the duties of women have been clearly indicated, that they show no disposition to overstep the boundaries assigned to them, is simply a manifestation of the spirit that pervades all classes. It is hardly a question of higher or lower, superior or inferior; it is a matter of duty—of "bushido."

Certainly the Japanese woman is not regarded as a handmaid. She has never been without her honorable position in the body politic, nor has the value of her peculiar duties ever been slighted. The duties of bushido are considered to be binding upon the woman as upon the man, and inasmuch as bushido means loyalty, so the woman must be loyal to her husband, as the man must be to the emperor and to the country. It is only those who are led by a false independence to revolt against all ideas of service who will criticize a ready acceptance by the women of Japan of a domestic sphere which is as important in its way as the larger service to the empire.

But the Samurai woman was not confined wholly to the household. She was even taught the use of arms, that she might help her father or her husband if the need should arise, and also that she might defend her own honor. Japanese history has many examples of women who became governors, who led military expeditions and who were famous in literature, art, education and religion. Indeed, the path to public honor has always been open to the Japanese woman, but it could be attained only by public service. There was only one standard of human value, and that was adhesion to the national interest. The woman who performed her whole duty to the home was as worthy of veneration as the man who performed his whole duty to the army and to the country.

There have been distinct feminine periods in the history of Japan. Such a period followed closely upon the introduction of Buddhism, which, with its incitements to charity, did much to stimulate what may be called a feminist movement. Such literary stars as Murasaki Shikibu and Sei Shonagon not only were the most famous authors of their time, but their works are still classics. The education of women was zealously fostered, and we hear of meetings at which women competed with one another in poetry, music and art. Works of charity became honorable duties, and we hear much of the Empress Komei, who distinguished herself by personal service to lepers.

But the feminist movement in Japan has attained its main successes since the restoration and the fall of the Shogunate. Many Japanese women have visited foreign countries, received a foreign education and returned to their own country to play the part of propagandists. The popular education of girls has made great strides, and even the extension of political suffrage to women finds its advocates not only among women themselves, but among politicians and leaders of thought. But progress in this direction is likely to be slow. A society that has lately emerged from feudalism and that is accustomed to assign fixed duties to its various grades is not usually tolerant of innovations or efforts to enlarge the boundaries of particular classes. Buddhism, moreover, is likely to play some part in retarding the political advance of women, and in confining her activities to the household, to practical charities and to religion.

## Memory Aid for Busy Men

The first mechanical apparatus intended to prevent the busy man from forgetting any of his engagements has just been described, with illustration, in Popular Mechanics. The new memory device is operated by a large spring, released at predetermined intervals by an ordinary clock. It is a desk fixture which keeps accurate time and occupies a desk space only six inches in height and eight inches



FEEDING CHICKENS



WASHING

ities to the household, to practical charities and to religion. Among the public institutions now managed by women may be mentioned the Nurse association, the Red Cross society, the Patriotic association, Fukuden-Kwai and Jikei—a hospital. Women are also interested in many productive industries and art activities. There are also now women doctors, and the department of communications employs women officials. Physical culture for women is also being adopted with energy and this is a fitting sequel to the Samurai injunction that required women to regulate their emotions and suppress all those weaknesses that their western sisters usually attribute to nerves.

The Woman's university of Japan may be taken as an expression of Japanese ideas upon the question of education for women. It was founded by Mr. Maruse, who began his work thirty-six years ago, and who has been unremitting in its advancement. The object of the university is to educate women to fulfill their duties toward the state and society and to become an influence in the life of the nation. The university contains 62 buildings, including a library of 11,500 volumes, a chemical laboratory and a lecture hall.

The curriculum begins with a kindergarten and there are departments for household science, literature, English and education, the first of these including mathematics, physics, chemistry and physiology. The university has 855 regular members, 141 associate members, 37 advisory members, 151 junior members and 11 honorary members. The following exhortation given to the students by Mr. Maruse leaves nothing to be desired for its amplitude and intent: "The students are enjoined to learn, ineffaceably impressed upon their minds, that they are to make it their chief aim and duty to cultivate and develop to the fullest extent all their faculties as well as their wondrous virtues, and to remain faithful to the university, never forgetting to be and do good, study and to learn."

Much, of course, remains to be done for the advancement of women of Japan, but much has already been done. Japan has at least broken away from the ancient traditions of the east and has set her foot on the path that leads to the entire emancipation of women.

In 1878 Japan had a debt of \$28,886,

331. Thirty years later the debt had risen to \$1,120,000,000. This immense increase was due mainly to the Chinese and Russian war, and a continuing expenditure on a large scale is necessitated by the national defense. In the year 1908 the army and navy cost \$144,189,183. Between April 1, 1895, and March 1, 1909, the army cost \$376,085,088 and the navy \$213,443,440. The national defense has cost a total of \$689,423,523 within fourteen years and this without counting the cost of the Russian war, Corea, Formosa and Manchuria have demanded heavy expenditures. A merchant marine has been established, many extensive public works undertaken, including railroads, telegraphs and telephones, and all these things have been done by a country that contains only 26,000 square miles of arable soil.

Under such conditions it is easy to believe that taxation is the question of the day in Japan and has been so for many years. Since the outbreak of the Russian war the land tax has ranged from 3 per cent. to 17.5 per cent. The tax on liquors ranges from \$5 per 40 gallons up to 17.40¢ per 40 gallons, according to the percentage of alcohol.

Then comes the income tax, which is arranged upon a sort of graduated scale. Before the war the tax paid by "juridical" persons was 2½ per cent., but after the war an additional tax was levied equal to 80 per cent. up to 400 per cent. of the ordinary rate. An income tax of 2 per cent. was also levied on public loan funds and company debentures. All other persons not already assessed as above pay a rate in proportion to their income. Before the war those with an income of 300 yen (\$150) per annum paid 1 per cent., and this increased according to the income up to 5½ per cent. Now the lowest income pays 10 per cent., and the highest 20.55 per cent. There are various exceptions, such as army and navy officers while engaged in war, widows, orphans, pensioners, etc. There is also a tax on textiles, an excise duty on sugar, and a substantial revenue from the post office. The customs tariff also is responsible for a substantial income amounting to about \$22,000,000 a year. Mention should also be made of the state monopolies of tobacco, salt and camphor, worth about \$25,000,000 a year.

Adachi Kinzei describes the willingness of the Japanese people to be taxed and their uncomplicated response to demands that are necessitated by the good of the country. His statement is so remarkable that it is worthy of quotation. He says:

"In 1895 we went to war with China. Our government wanted money, and wanted it badly. It let our people know about its needs in terms of war loans. To the first call the people answered by putting up \$25,000,000. The government wanted more, and on the second call it succeeded in getting from the people \$15,000,000—in all \$40,000,000. The people gave this amount very willingly. That fact was very plain on the very face of it. It was widely advertised also. The thing that was not so well known, especially outside of the country, however, was that this was all that the people could do at the time—and a little more. Nine

years later came the Russian war. Once more the government talked to the people in the unpleasant language of government loans. The people of Japan, however, apparently enjoyed this bitter talk. Indeed they became enthusiastic about it. Five times the government talked to the people and five times the people replied by giving up altogether \$300,000,000. In addition to this amount we raised about \$500,000,000 from foreign loans. As in the time of the Chinese war, the willingness of the people, their enthusiasm, their appreciation of the honor of emptying their pocketbooks for the state was the same. Ours is the Spartan ideal—no consideration for the individual, everything for the state. What was not exactly the same was that our people had a very much harder time in putting up the \$10,000,000 at the time of the Chinese war than in surrendering \$300,000,000 at the time of the Russian war."

The Japanese government is now carrying out a scheme for paying off the principal of the national debt. Prime Minister Katoura decided that the country must raise at least \$250,000,000 if this can be maintained Japan will have paid her war debts in less than thirty years.

But she will not find the task an easy one. She will have to call again upon a patriotism that has never failed her, but that cannot perform the impossible. It may be doubted if the taxes can be pushed any higher than they are now and even the most willing taxpayers cannot pay when they do not possess. The annual taxation now amounts to almost 16 yen (\$8) and this is a very large sum indeed when we remember that the average earnings are very small. In 1904 an estimate was made of the monthly expenses of the average Japanese family of four, and it is probably fairly correct at the present time. It is as follows:

House rent	Yen
Rice	2.35
Fuel and light	0.41
Vegetables	0.69
Fish	0.60
Soy and meat	0.23
Tobacco	0.35
Rest	0.20
Pin money	0.60
Hair cutting, etc.	0.18
Sundries	2.37

The monthly income of this same family was estimated at 8.22 yen, leaving a deficit of 1.16 yen. Wages may have increased somewhat since the war, but there can be no doubt that the cost of living also has increased. An official report since the war gives the following as the mean wages of workmen in Japan:

Yen per day (1 Yen equal to 50 cents gold)	Yen
Bricklayers	0.60
Printers	0.53
Silvermiths	0.45
Masons	0.50
Carpenters	0.70
Woolsmen	0.30
Blacksmiths	0.45
Weavers	0.38

Monthly wages in Tokyo are approximately as follows:	Yen
Sake distillers	7.00
Men servants	3.32
Maid servants	2.92
Silk-worm breeders	3.30
Raw silk weavers	5.55
Farm laborers	3.38

Millard says in his "Far Eastern Question" that several persons whom he has questioned estimate the average earnings of the average Japanese family of four in the lower classes at 160 yen (\$80) annually, assuming that the children are old enough to work. None placed the figure higher than 200 yen annual income. Out of this amount the average Japanese pays 40 per cent. in taxes. That is a very high proportion, but the fiscal authorities seem to have no doubt that it can be maintained, and probably even raised.

It seems impossible to economize except by a reduction of the expenditure for armaments, and there seems to be little chance for that. Armaments on their present scale are considered to be absolutely necessary to the preservation of the national life, and as a Japanese writer recently remarked: "Of what use is it to economize the nation's finances at the cost of national destruction?"

In 1907 there were 2,236 banks in Japan, with a total capitalization of 579,628,220 yen and which showed a balance in deposits of 1,830,693,270 yen. Their earnings in 1906 were 208,445,599 yen and they paid dividends at the rate of 9.5 per cent.

**Superfluous Question.**  
"Is your wife superstitious?"  
"My dear sir, my wife is a woman."

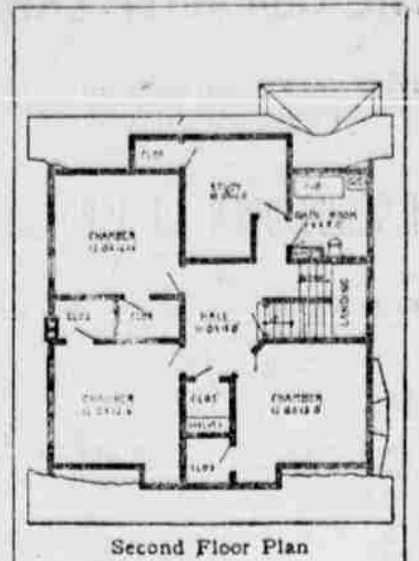
**Proper Course of Life.**  
A man's purpose of life should be like a river, which was born of a thousand little rills in the mountains; and when at last it has reached its manhood in the plain, all its mighty current flows changeless to the sea.—H. W. Beecher.

**Valuation of Corn Bread.**  
Doctors say that eating corn bread is good for the teeth. It might be added that it is also good for the entire system.—Pittsburg Post.

# IDEAS FOR HOME BUILDERS

BY WM. A. RADFORD.

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 175 West Jackson boulevard, Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.



Second Floor Plan

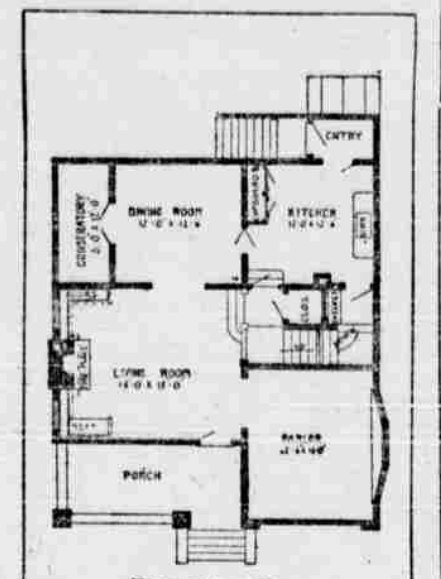
When a man builds a house there is one factor that often is overlooked by him.

He sometimes fails to realize that he not only is under certain obligations to himself and his family, but he is also under a deep obligation to the community in which he purposes to build.

For instance, a man has no moral right to buy a lot in a community of fine houses and place thereon an architectural monstrosity, or a house whose freakish design will detract from the neighborhood.

The desire of home owners in every neighborhood is to have the houses that are built even better than those already there. In other words, progressiveness is the watchword in home building as in all other things.

A man cannot do a more foolhardy thing than to build a dry goods box



First Floor Plan

house, or a cheap looking structure in a community of fine residences. For he and his family will be ostracized, and rightly so, by their neighbors.

Nor is there any necessity for houses of this character. Well and accurately drawn plans are available and designs are to be had for houses

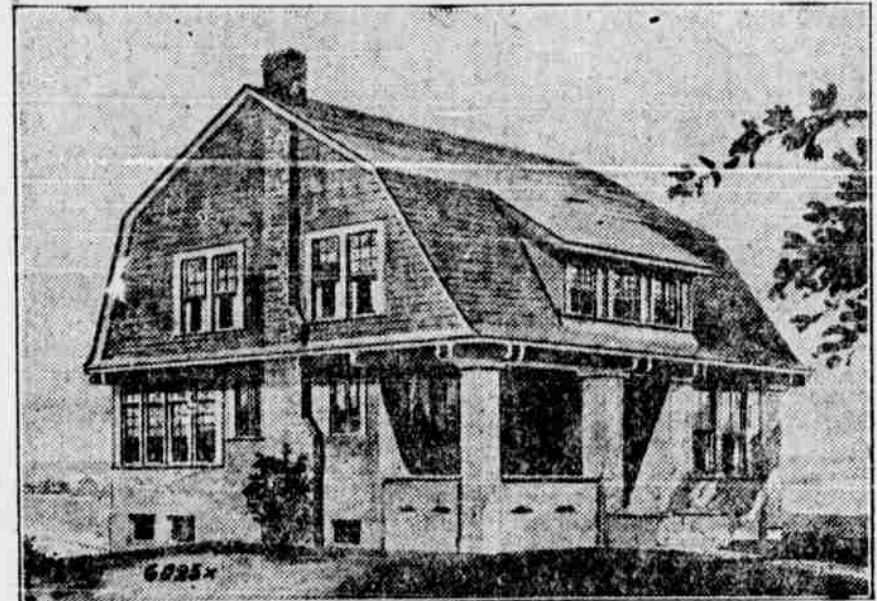
which, though not expensive, will be a credit to any community.

The first thing to study in the matter of house building is the lot, its size and the surroundings. The frontage will largely determine the design and the arrangement of the rooms.

The house here shown is beautifully adapted to a corner lot where ample lawn space can be had. The first floor or story can be of concrete blocks or plaster finish. The wide exposed chimney, giving the impression of the cheerful fire-place within, breaks the monotony of the end elevation, as the dormer does on the front. The size of this house is not as large as might appear from the design. It is 32 feet, 9 inches wide, and 41 feet, 6 inches long, exclusive of the porches.

The front porch is of ample size, and one enters directly into the living room from it. This room is 15 by 18 feet in size. The architect has yielded to that demand for the parlor that still obtains in most localities, and has provided one 12 feet, 6 inches wide and 15 feet long. With the wide folding doors the living room and the parlor can be made practically one. The dining room is 12 feet by feet, 6 inches; and a beautiful feature here is the conservatory opening from it. The kitchen is 12 feet, by 12 feet, 6 inches. On the second floor are three bedrooms, a bathroom and a study. This latter room also may be used as a sewing room or as an additional bedroom if so desired.

It is estimated that this house can be nicely built and finished for \$4,000.



## TERMS FOR STENOGRAPHER FOR LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Art of Shorthand Writing Has Been and Is Known by a variety of Names.

Possibly not one in 100 of New York's numerous "key tappers" knows that the art of shorthand writing is known by other names than "stenography." "Tachygraphy" is only one of them. Its second part, of course, comes from the same root as the latter end of "stenography"—that is, from the Greek "grapho," meaning to write. "Tachy" is derived from the Greek "tachy," meaning swift; so only the shorthand writer who has the ability to take down rapid speech and transcribe it quickly has the right to call himself or herself a "tachygrapher." (The "ch" sound is like that of "k.") "Stenography," comes from "grapho" combined with "steno," which means "narrow" in Greek. So a "stenographer" is either a narrow writer, or she or he practices "narrow writing."

Not so many years ago we heard a good deal about "phonography" as a name for shorthand writing, but the term seems to have gone out of use. It comes from that same useful root "grapho," combined with "phono," the latter word means "sound." So that a phonographer is one who writes down sound as he hears it. The phonograph is, of course, an instrument for writing or recording sound.

Then there are "brachygraphy" and "logography" as other names for what we generally call stenography. In the order given, they are derived from "brachy," meaning "short," "steganos," meaning "covered," "secret" (a stenographer is one who writes in cryptic or mysterious writing, not to be read by the uninitiated) and "logos," meaning speech.

At a New York Hotel.  
"Those green peas were nice."  
"Werent they? Let's have another portion. They're only \$2 a portion."  
"Small portions, though. I'll order \$50 worth. I'm rather hungry tonight."

British Alienist Says Science Must Surrender to Romance, and Gives Reasons.

Sir James Crichton Browne, a distinguished British alienist, scientist and eugenist, in an address at Sheffield, declared that science takes a back seat in favor of romance and that he believes in love at first sight. He said:

"I am a believer in the love match, not only from a romantic, but from the eugenic viewpoint. I feel I am on firm ground in recommending a return to nature in relation to marriage, and with a due allowance for those natural forces that are, perhaps, more far-sighted in the future of race improvement than we see with the best scientific spectacles.

"Love at first sight of the right kind is a physiological epoch, corresponding with the installation of new circuits in the brain. There is nothing more beautiful in the world than the love match. It is sacred, divine."

**Diplomatic Compliments.**  
Francis I. Madero, president of Mexico, is a small man and somewhat sensitive on the subject. Not long ago Madero and his cabinet were photographed. Abraham Gonzalez, secretary of state, is a very tall man and stout, and he was required to stand next to Madero when the picture was taken.

Madero lifted his eyes to the top of the head of the great Gonzalez, observed the difference in stature and coughed slightly. Then he said: "I feel that my size will not show to your advantage unless we are seated."

"Your Excellency," replied Don Abraham, "if you could only stand on your wishes we would all be dwarfs."

"Well said," Madero in return, "provided you did not stand on your courtesy at the same time."—Saturday Evening Post.

**Silent.**  
"Timpers is a quiet man."  
"Yes, indeed. Timpers makes about as much noise as the letter g in 'imbrolio.'"